

# SANTA FE WEEKLY GAZETTE.

"Independent in all things—Neutral in nothing."

JAMES L. COLLINS, Editor.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1856.

## THE SURVEYOR GENERAL.

We regret to learn that some persons, no doubt unintentionally, are doing General Pelham, the Surveyor General, injustice in supposing that it is by his order that persons holding grants of land in this Territory, are required to file their claims in his office, and to incur the expense of defending them. This is one of the requirements of the law of Congress over which he has no control. General Pelham is as well aware of the inconvenience which this law occasions, as any one else, and it was one of the objects of this trip to Washington to have it so amended as to relieve the people from some of the hardships which it imposes, and if he had been allowed to remain at Washington long enough to have brought the subject to the notice of Congress, it would doubtless have been so amended.

We refer the reader to the card of General Pelham below.

Surveyor General's Office,  
Santa Fe New Mexico,  
December 9th 1856.

A rumor having reached this office complaining of the expense incurred by claimants in employing counsel to prosecute their private land claims before this office, those persons making such complaints are hereby notified that the instructions to this office from the proper department at Washington, require claimants in every case, and require this office to give public notice to that effect, to file a written notice "setting forth the name of present claimant, name of original claimant, nature of claim; whether tract or perfect; its date; from what authority the original title was derived with a reference to the evidence of the power and authority under which the granting officer may have acted; quantity claimed; locality; notice and extent of conflicting claims if any, with a reference to the documentary evidence and testimony relied upon to establish the claim, and to show a transfer of right from the original grantee to present claimant."

The above instructions are issued by authority of the act of Congress establishing this office and are as binding upon it as the law itself, and claimants are required to comply with them.

Wm. PELHAM,  
Surveyor General of N. M.

## The message of Governor Meriwether.

We publish this week, in pamphlet form, the above message, which has been delayed beyond the usual time in finding its way to the printing office, for the reason perhaps that it was not of much consequence to the members of the Assembly in commencing their legislative duties.

We would be glad if our duty as public journalists would permit us to pass this document by without comment, for we are aware that it may be said that our objections to it were looked for as a matter of course; and we are aware also, that there are a few who will affect to believe that our objections are of very little consequence to either Governor Meriwether or his message, just as the fool who sets himself up as the paragon of wisdom when the whole world writes him down an ass. Be this as it may, if it was even our purpose to find fault unjustly, it would be a difficult matter to do so, for there is really nothing in the message—certainly nothing to commend, and very little to condemn.

Upon the principle of subtraction, it is nothing from nothing, and nothing remains. It is certainly strange to those having a knowledge of the many wants of this Territory, how any intelligent man could fill her executive chair for four years, and at the end of that time find nothing to recommend for her advancement, nothing to condemn that was calculated to retard her progress.

There is, however, one paragraph, and only one, to which we intend to make any allusion, and that is the following.

"Although our Territory has not been free from Indian depredations during the past year. I am happy to have it in my power to inform you that such depredations have been less frequent, and of a less serious character than for several years previous." Without saying a word in reference to the object that the above paragraph was intended to effect, we will proceed to mention some of the depredations that have been committed within the period referred to, and see how the facts will sustain the statement of the message. In the month of February or March last two men were killed in the county of San Miguel, one of whom was bound to a tree and burned to death. About the same time the Mayordomo of Don Juan Peren's sheep ranch on the Pecos was mortally wounded, and afterwards died. Shortly after eleven thousand sheep were taken from Judge Otero and others, and three men killed. Not long after three men were killed near Peña Blanca. Afterwards a man was killed below Fort Fillmore, who belonged to the Mexican side of Rio Grande. About the first of June four men were killed near the town of Mora. This makes fourteen men, that are known to us to have been killed, and there are doubtless others of which we have no knowledge. In addition to this one of our Indian Agents has been seized, and if not killed, carried into captivity. And the Governor himself, in an interview had with the

Utahs in September last, was grossly insulted by the Indians; some of the goods which he had distributed to them were cut into pieces, and thrown into his face, and he narrowly escaped being assassinated by them.

In the same month of September a party of Kiowas ranged through our settlements passing within twenty five miles of this city, committing depredations of a character unknown before in the history of the Territory. We will not take the trouble to innumerate the amount of property taken by the Indians within the last year, but we will assert and challenge a contradiction, that it amounts to more than any other named year within the last four preceding it, and if we exclude the number of persons killed in action during the years 1854 and 1855, when there was a state of war, and the troops were in the field, the number killed—citizens of the Territory, this year, will exceed that of any one of the four mentioned.

Now these facts prove one of two things, either that Governor Meriwether is grossly ignorant of the condition of the Territory, or that he intends to mislead the government; either of which is disgraceful to him as an executive officer.

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

The government express from the south brings us dates to the 16th of November, from San Antonio Texas. Our correspondent gives us but little news, but such as it is, we give our readers.

"That the election has resulted in the choice of Mr. Buchanan as President—that Mr. Fillmore obtained the vote of the State of Maryland only—and that Fremont obtained the vote of all the New England States." No particulars further.

These southern news also informs us that Maj. La Motte 1st infantry, and Maj. Chase of the corps of Engineers, have resigned. The death of Maj. Pike Graham 2nd dragoons, is also reported, which we sincerely hope may prove unfounded.

## OUR INDIAN AFFAIRS.

We were in the House of Representatives the other day and heard a part of the discussion that took place in reference to a memorial introduced by the Hon. Jose Baca y Delgado, asking the Congress of the United States for an appropriation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to defray the expenses of colonizing the Apache and Utah Indians of this Territory. It was a matter of surprise to us to find Mr. Ellison and Mr. Webb, the only two American members in the House, and from what we could see, the only two members opposed to the memorial, so violent in their opposition to a measure so important to the interests and prosperity of this Territory. Can it be possible that these men can desire that this Territory shall remain a prey to those Indians as she has been since her transfer to the American government? If they do not, what remedy do they propose for her relief? If there is any plan more reasonable than the one proposed in Mr. Baca's memorial why not present it? Unless they do this, we will be forced to the conviction that these two gentlemen are actuated by some other motives than those which are calculated to promote the prosperity of New Mexico.

The objections urged against the memorial, on the ground that it was disrespectful to the government of the United States, is ridiculous and absurd, and only proves how little these gentlemen know of what passes in the halls of Congress every day. The memorial assumes that the protection of this Territory has not been such as her necessities demand, nor is it such as has been secured to us by treaty stipulations, and that has been time and again promised by the government and officers of the United States. What were the promises made by General Kearney when he took possession of this Territory? That our protection against the Indians should be ample and complete, and that all the property taken by the Indians after the 18th of August 1846, if not returned, should be paid for by the government? How has this promise been fulfilled. It is a pity that Mr. Baca's memorial should have been so harshly worded as to wound the pride of Messrs Webb and Ellison, gentlemen so remarkable for their tender regard for the character of our government. But that other members of the assembly may know how a senator of the United States speaks of this very subject in the halls of Congress, we publish the following extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Benton of Missouri in the Senate in 1850.

"They are in our hands, and upon our hands, and belong to us; and it is our duty to provide for them, and take care of them, until they are strong enough to take care of themselves as sovereign States. Both territories require government at our hands, and protection along with it, New Mexico especially, now desolated by Indian ravages, and suffering more in the three years that she has belonged to the United States than in any three years of her existence—even during the most helpless period of the Mexican rule. The Spanish government, under the vice-regal system, appropriated two thousand dragoons to the protection of the interior provinces from the Apaches, the Navajos, the Comanches, and other wild Indians. We have a few companies of dragoons and some stationary infantry, in sight of whose barracks these Indians slay men and women, carry off children, and drive away flocks and herds, sometimes thousands in a drove. The Navajos actually have more New Mexican sheep now than the New Mexicans have left. A single in-

dividual inhabitant of El Paso owned more cattle and sheep when Pike was there in 1806 than the whole town and settlement now own. Single inhabitants of the valley of the Del Norte owned flocks and herds then nearly equal to those of the whole province now. The valley of the Puerco, then the sheep-walk of millions, is now reduced to some two hundred thousand, and becoming less every day. All this is a reproach to us. It is a reproach to republican government in our persons. It is an appeal to us for succor and protection, to which we cannot be deaf without drawing down upon our heads the censure of all good men."

This is what a Senator of the United States said and thought of our condition, a man that knows more to day of the condition and wants of this Territory, than Governor Meriwether and all those who would lend themselves to prop up his miserable and imbecile policy—a policy that every intelligent man knows has produced no beneficial results, and that must be changed before this Territory can emerge from the depths of ruin into which she has been plunged by the men sent to rule over her affairs.

We understand that Mr. Webb used our name in his remarks upon the memorial. We do not know whether or not, he expected to injure its character by connecting it with our name; but what we do know is, that the effort was as weak, as it was ungenerous, and unmanly. It matters not who drew the memorial, it was its merits and purpose that he as a legislator was called upon to consider, and it only proves that he was hard pushed for an argument when he resorted to such means. We feel that we are sufficiently known to the members of that body, to justify the belief in their minds, that we desire nothing but the advancement of the interests of New Mexico, and they know, as well, as does every intelligent man in the Territory, that the interests of our people can never prosper until they are relieved from Indian depredations.

The inquiry then for them to make, as the representatives of the people, is, what will best promote this great object? not what will please or displease Governor Meriwether; he has had the Territory under his charge for four years, and what has he done for it? Nothing, absolutely nothing, nor has he proposed any thing in his message. Why then should his opinions be consulted? If he had known how to relieve the Territory from this great evil, he should have pointed out the plan in his message. He has not done so, therefore the conviction is forced upon our minds that he does not know. The idea that Mr. Webb suggested, that we should wait to see whether the Senate will not yet ratify Governor Meriwether's treaties is as rich, as it is absurd. Would the members of that assembly accept those treaties of the United States? Is there a Mexican citizen in the Territory of New Mexico, who is entitled to any credit for intelligence, that approves those treaties? We will answer the question, not one. The idea then is absurd to think of their ratification. Are we to have forced upon us a set of absurd and ridiculous Indian treaties, that we all disapprove, for no other reason than because it would please Governor Meriwether? We think not; and we think further, that the members of the assembly are not yet prepared to sell the interests of their constituents and the future prosperity of New Mexico, at so low a rate.

We will repeat in conclusion that there must be a change of policy with regard to our Indians, before the people can be relieved from their hostile incursions, and if our humble opinion is worth any thing, we give it in favor of the plan proposed in the memorial.

We have been allowed to copy the following extract from a letter addressed to one of the members of the legislature; for which we ask an attentive perusal by every member of that body. It is time that our legislators should look to the interest and business of the Territory rather than to the adulation of her officials.

If an officer discharges his duties faithfully, or does any thing in connection with his official position, deserving of commendation, it is perhaps proper that he should be noticed; but it has been said, and we are sorry to believe with too much truth, that the custom is becoming too common with us to notice and compliment public men, without stopping to ask the simple question, what has been done to advance the public good, that demands from us a public demonstration of our applause? We should not praise any man, no matter how high his position, unless we could do so truly.

If we try the acts of our officials by this simple test, we fear there will not be much discovered that will demand our admiration, or merit the encomiums of our legislative assembly.

"I congratulate you upon the resumption of your senatorial duties, and trust that you find yourself surrounded by signs and circumstances auspicious of the welfare of New Mexico—neglected, mal-treated, and suffering New Mexico."

The existing aspect of affairs forces upon our minds the conviction that the very first step towards the prosperity, the development, the progress of our Territory must be taken in the hidden paths of the hostile Indians, whose habitation is in the trackless wilds, but whose threat of blood and devastation is in the midst of our people. Let that be the great question of your deliberations—how peace shall be secured to the homes, safety to the lives and security to the possessions of those for whose protection the honor and good faith of the go-

vernment of the United States stands solemnly and sacredly pledged.

If, with a faithful view of the great question, your plans be devised in wisdom and maintained in a spirit of manly and patriotic devotion to the true interests of the country, success will inevitably follow your efforts. But, if the representatives of the people continue the policy of administering applause to every swart that is drawn in the field of Indian warfare, and praise to every man who holds a parchment from the general government, without stopping duly to consider whether the sword has bravely won the applause as the parchment duly earned the praise, then New Mexico may have no future but what is to be written in the blood of her people—a future of darkness, poverty and desolation.

The government of the United States is both liberal and just. The boldness with which she assumes her obligations is even surpassed by the integrity of her purpose to maintain and fulfill them. With a boldness and integrity characteristic of her self, she has assumed the protection of this far off people, and in that good faith with which she recognizes all of her engagements, she stands ready to fulfill every duty which she owes to this remote and newly acquired portion of her domain. But, before she can respond to your wants, she must learn your true condition; and how is she to become truly enlightened in reference thereto, while worse of misrepresentation are constantly flowing into her ear, and no voice of contradiction goes forth from the halls of her legislature, nay, while the very voice of legislation swells the cry of "peace, peace, when there is no peace?"

The people of New Mexico seem to have slept under a strange delusion in reference to the character of the officials of the federal government within their borders, both civil and military. They seem to have regarded them as the government itself, rather than the servants of the government, sent into their midst, in a fiduciary capacity, to administer and exercise the functions of their respective offices, with a due and sacred regard to the public welfare and the delicacy of the trust confided to their wisdom and fidelity.

Under this delusion they appear to have acted, in their legislative capacity, under a spirit of subservency and submission; being prepared, at all times, to shout halloojah to those officials—to pass resolutions for their glorification, while mal-administration, or misadministration has characterized the official career of the very men upon whom they have so lavishly and so unwisely bestowed their commendations.

Has not the time arrived for a change of policy? Has not the time arrived for the members of the legislature of New Mexico to think, to speak, and to act as if they were freemen; citizens of the United States; part and parcel of our great government, of whose power and justice that flag which floats in the middle of your plaza is, at once, the emblem and the promise? Has not the time arrived for them to show that boldness and independence which, as freemen, they possess, and which, as patriots, they are in duty bound to maintain—the boldness to condemn where censure is deserved—the independence to approve only where applause is due?

To be unlearned in the language in which our constitution and laws are written, does not disqualify the people of New Mexico from claiming the full protection of the government, of which they form a part, or impair their entire political equality with those who were born and bred upon American soil. That protection and that equality are guaranteed to them by the solemn covenants of treaty stipulation, than which the constitution of our beloved land is scarcely more sacred.

Nor are they less entitled to the prompt and faithful rendition of those rights on the part of our government, because they have lately been severed from a foreign land—a land under whose sovereignty they have grown from youth to manhood—from manhood to hoary age. On the contrary, they derive, from that source, a strong and sacred claim upon their new sovereign for the most unreserved, prompt and liberal fulfillment of every promise that she has made, and every obligation that she has assumed on their behalf. The people of no other organized territory on this continent have a greater right to complain to the government of the United States, of their wrongs whether they result from the mal-administration of their officials or from other sources, than the people of New Mexico. On the contrary, in view of their geographical position and the strength and power of the domestic foe who ravages within their borders, there is no territory upon whom the duty of prompt, firm and earnest expostulation is more strongly or more sacredly enjoined.

Then let your legislators speak plainly, speak boldly of things in New Mexico, as they are. Let them condemn in trumpet tones, the crimes or the errors of those who have proved faithless or inefficient in the exercise of official authority. Let no promise lure, no danger drive them from their duty. Let no hope of favor seduce, no fear of displeasure deter them from a firm and manly performance of their obligations to themselves and the suffering people whom they represent. If they cannot speak now, when their men are assailed in every valley, and their flocks are driven from every hill; if they cannot speak now, when the homes of their people are invaded by the savage foe, their blood spilled, their children led captive and their women outraged; if they have not the heart and the voice to speak now, while their

country, bleeding at every pore, cries for mercy! when, in the name of Heaven, when will they speak? Not, perhaps, until, with remorseful lamentations, they see the dark pall of darkness and desolation settling upon the prospect and hopes of New Mexico."

## (CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GAZETTE.)

Camp near the Calhase,  
Santa Cruz River,  
Sixty miles south of Tucson N. M.  
December 1st 1856.

Dear Sir:

We arrived here on the 27th ultimo, all well and hearty, our march was pleasant, if any thing a little cold.

We searched the valley from Tucson to this point to find a suitable grazing camp. This is the most suitable location for a post in the valley for facilities of obtaining supplies as well as all other conveniences.

Forage is scarce and high—corn seven dollars per fanega, and barley four dollars, for wheat; beef cattle of a good quality from seventeen to twenty dollars per head, and flour scarce at the price of six cents per pound. In another year any quantity can be had.

The ox train, with our provisions has not yet arrived. It is within a few days of here. The cattle nearly all are broken down, some eighty head lost since leaving the Rio Grande.

Yours in haste,  
TUCSON.

Los Lunas N. M.  
Dec. 1st 1856.

Major:

I have deemed it my proper duty as commanding officer of this post to ascertain for the information of the Department Commander the amount and value of the stock in its immediate vicinity. These statistics may be regarded as reliable, as they come from Don Ramon Luna, a citizen of responsibility and honesty who has always lived here, and knows the resources of the county. He assures me if there is any error in the following table of stock, it is in undertaking the amounts.

| County        | Wagon or Pack | Horses & Mules | Cows & Steers | Sheep |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------|
| Los Lunas     | 300           | 600            | 27,000        |       |
| Sabinal       | 100           | 600            | 3,000         |       |
| Belén         | 300           | 1000           | 11,000        |       |
| Isleta        | 100           | 500            | 6,000         |       |
| Padillas      | 200           | 400            | 25,000        |       |
| Pajarito      | 200           | 200            | 10,000        |       |
| Atrisco       | 100           | 400            | 20,000        |       |
| Cebollita     | 150           | 400            | 10,000        |       |
| Philo. Laguna | 200           | 600            | 11,000        |       |
| Acama         | 200           | 400            | 15,000        |       |
| Valencia      | 400           | 1000           | 20,000        |       |
| Musano et al. | 300           | 300            | 13,000        |       |
| Securro       | 500           | 1500           | 20,000        |       |
| Total         | 3000          | 10000          | 150,000       |       |

If we value the horses and mules at forty dollars each the total property in horses and mules amounts to (\$122,000) one hundred and twenty two thousand dollars. The cattle at \$12 per head amount to (\$122,400) one hundred and twenty two thousand and four hundred. The sheep at \$2.50 amount to (\$465,000) four hundred and sixty five thousand, making a sum total in stock of (\$709,400) seven hundred nine thousand and four hundred dollars.

The people of this county are almost exclusively pastoral in their pursuits, and of course their main property is in herds. They are compelled to go to the Puerco for winter herding, where the grama grass is in abundance, and it is here the Apaches yearly make their winter forays, plunder the herds and kill the "haceros" and herdsmen in charge of flocks. The valley of the Puerco is the great outlet for the Apaches and Navajos, and to abandon this position as a military post, would leave the people of this county and their herds and flocks wholly exposed to the rapacity and robberies of these vagabond Indians.

It was to my mind quite probable that this information has not been communicated to Department Headquarters, and the recent foray of the Apaches, suggested to me the propriety of putting it in this official form.

I am sir very respectfully,  
Your obt. servant,  
B. S. ROBERTS.  
Lt. Col. U. S. A.  
Comdg.

Major W. A. Nichols,  
Asst. Adj. Gen. U. S. A.  
Santa Fe New Mexico.

Los Lunas N. M.  
Dec. 3 1856.

Major:

I have the honor to report for the information of the Department Commander, that since I arrived at this post I have sent parties in different directions in search of coal. The result of their examinations has furnished clear proof of inexhaustible bituminous coal measures within twenty five miles. The field is the other side of the Puerco valley and has been followed several miles. It is easy of access, easy to mine and of good quality. I have tested it in my blacksmith shop, and although that used was the out crop and of course inferior to the great mass unexposed to the air and weather, yet it satisfied me that it is not inferior to most of the "bituminous" coal burned in the States.

The main coal field is only 25 miles from this post, and the road here is on descending planes, requiring but little labor to make it excellent at all seasons. It is not more than thirty miles from Albuquerque, and I doubt not could be reached from that place by excellent roads.

The scarcity of wood all along this river, the